

JULY 2010

# ALL HANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY



Faster,  
Higher,  
Stronger





[On the Front Cover]

The inaugural Warrior Games at the U.S. Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, Colo., provide a unique challenge for our nation's wounded veterans to demonstrate the power of ability over disability through national-level competition. The Navy/Coast Guard team, though small in size, showed up with a boatload of heart and sailed away with a bounty of which they can be proud.

Photo by MC1(AW) R. Jason Brunson



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Shaping Future Leaders

Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), learn to appreciate that relationship early on through the tutelage of senior enlisted leaders (SELs). These SELs do not fill a specific curriculum, but in the role of counselors, mentors and role models help shape the future leaders of the fleet.

Photo by MC1(AW) R. Jason Brunson



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Operation *Bearing Duel*:  
Putting Seabees to the Test

Operation *Bearing Duel* prepares the Seabees for the demands of their mission in support of overseas contingency operations. The realistic training reinforces the Seabee motto "we build, we fight."

Photo by MC1 Bobbie G. Attaway



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Faster, Higher, Stronger

The Olympic motto – *Citius, Altius, Fortius* – is a hallmark of the very concept of any athletic endeavor, a benchmark coined more than 110 years ago by the father of the modern Olympic Games. The same legacy of relentless courage and inspiring achievement was demonstrated by the nearly 200 service members participating in the recent inaugural Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Photo by MC1(AW) R. Jason Brunson

[Next Month]

*All Hands* looks at parenting in today's Navy.

**Correction:** In the June issue of *All Hands*, Page 29, the Commander, Destroyer Squadron 15 should be listed as Capt. Charles Williams.





BM1 Jim D. Castaneda pounds his way down the lane during the preliminary swimming competitions in the inaugural Warrior Games at the U.S. Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, Colo. Castaneda is one of nearly 200 wounded, ill or injured personnel from all branches of service participating in the games.

Photo by MC1(AW) R. Jason Brunson



# Shipmates,

Today, Sailors continue to provide a valuable capability that no other service in any other country can provide as a whole. I believe today's Sailors are more adaptive to any environment they are sent to more than any other time in our history and are out at the very tip of the spear whether they are on the ground, on the sea, under the sea or operating in the air ensuring our nation and or Navy's missions are carried out.

For the last nine years, the U.S. Navy has been operating at an exhaustive pace conducting overseas contingency operations and maritime engagements around the globe. Expeditionary Sailors have been at the forefront of the efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq and many other locations around the world from the very beginning.

Whether it's Navy explosive ordnance disposal technicians operating with conventional and special operational forces enabling offensive maneuvering on the battle field; Seabees building up the infrastructure of the U.S. fighting forces; the maritime civil affairs and security training teams partnering with host nations in Tanzania; or expeditionary logistics providing crucial cargo handling missions in Haiti; and many other commands contributing in so many other locations around the world, expeditionary Sailors have been the Navy's "boots on the ground" from the very beginning.

Like the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) operational tempo, the stress on our force has also been increasing, and these stresses often times migrate to our families. Our families



must have the means to deal with the increasing deployment schedules and the longer separations that follow. Long before NECC came into existence, expeditionary Sailors and their families have known how important it is to look out for each other.

Because our community is based around the people who serve – rather than the platforms from which they operate – the success of our mission relies on the readiness of our Sailors and the support systems in place for our families.

I am proud of our NECC Sailors for the work they have done during the last few years, and I am humbled by their families who have sacrificed so much to ensure our Sailors are mission ready. The accomplishments of the NECC forces could not have been achieved without the support of our families left behind and their tireless dedication.

It doesn't matter what community you are representing, it is every Sailor's responsibility to look out for one another 24/7, 365 and ensure their family is prepared for the deployment. One way you can do this is by ensuring your command's ombudsman and family readiness team has your significant other's contact info.

Through programs offered at Fleet and Family Support Centers, we have built up our community to be even stronger than ever and our commands and the Sailors should know that when they deploy there are several support systems in place to provide assistance to their families.

I thank you for your service, sacrifice and commitment to our great nation and our Navy!  
HOOYA WARRIORS! AH

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Photo by Master Sgt. Carlotta Holley

Adm. J. C. Harvey Jr., commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, addresses Navy individual augmentees Sailors assigned to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, Djibouti.

# Navy Designs New IA program

A new program to preserve career choice, volunteerism and predictability of Individual Augmentee (IA) assignments while solidifying Sailor and family support is being developed by U.S. Fleet Forces (USFF) and Navy Personnel Command (NPC).

The Overseas Contingency Operations Support Assignments (OSA) program will be implemented this fall through the Career Management System/Interactive Detailing (CMS/ID) system, using Sailor duty preference inputs.

“There are some inequities between the IAMM (IA Manpower Management) and GSA (Global War on Terrorism Support Assignment) processes,” said Ron Dodge, deputy director for enlisted distribution. “When a Sailor goes on an IAMM assignment, they are put on temporary additional duty (TAD) and receive per diem and entitlements, but Sailors going on a GSA are actually on permanent change of station (PCS) orders and don’t receive those same entitlements. When delays have occurred during processing in Norfolk and San Diego, Sailors on GSA orders were responsible for out of pocket expenses for lodging and meals. This program fixes that disparity. Sailors on OSA orders will also be in a TAD status.”

According to NAVADMIN 171/10, OSA will be used by enlisted Sailors while officers will continue to fill IA taskings through the GSA process. “Officers have well-defined career paths and milestones and the GSA program allows them to incorporate GSA tasking into their careers,” Dodge said. “Requests for enlisted forces often came with much shorter

notification times, which inhibited our ability to assign enlisted Sailors via GSA orders as part of the normal PCS process.”

OSA will allow Sailors to apply for an IA assignment 10 to 12 months prior to their projected rotation date (PRD). A dedicated OSA team at NPC will be available to discuss OSA opportunities and details regarding specific OSA assignments that match a Sailor’s desires, timing and skill sets.

OSA orders will be executed at the end of the Sailor’s normal PCS tour, however, these assignments will be in a TAD status from the current command to ensure Sailors and their families maintain the traditional support of a parent command relationship.

“The family gets to stay where they are, where they know the ombudsman and the commanding officer, and where they have all the things in place to get the support they need while their Sailor is on an IA assignment,” Dodge said.

If a Sailor is accepted for OSA, they will be administratively extended at their current duty station for the duration of the IA assignment plus an additional 60 days to facilitate reintegration and preparation for their next PCS move.

Although Sailors will remain assigned to the parent command, procedures will be established to account for Sailors filling IA assignments rather than recording them on board and filling a billet. Doing so will generate a requisition for that Sailor at their original PRD, mitigating impacts to fleet readiness.

“The Sailor will remain attached to the command, but during the OSA tour won’t be counted against the command’s manpower numbers,” Dodge said.

Comprehensive business rules will be provided in a NAVADMIN in July. The program will rollout by October.

Those Sailors currently in the GSA pipeline will see no changes to their orders as a result of modifications to the process. **AH**

*Story courtesy of Naval Personnel Command, Millington, Tenn.*

# NOC 10 Describes Means for the Maritime Strategy

The U.S. Navy director of Strategy and Policy Division (N51) spoke at the Pentagon about the significance of the Naval Operations Concept (NOC 10), which was recently released.

Rear Adm. David B. Woods said that NOC 10 is the result of months of coordination between the nation’s maritime services. The 2006 NOC, which this document supersedes, was a coordinated effort between the Navy and Marine Corps. In keeping with the current Maritime Strategy, NOC 10 also integrates the U.S. Coast Guard.

“To continue the conversation as to what the maritime services bring to the nation is the ultimate goal,” said Woods.

NOC 10 is organized around the sea services’ six core capabilities, which were identified in the Maritime Strategy: forward presence, sea control, power projection, deterrence maritime security, and humanitarian assistance/disaster response. NOC 10 also describes how the sea services will develop concepts and utilize their capabilities across the range of military operations.

“This document is less aspirational and much more focused in describing the ways we support the ends described in the Maritime Strategy,” Wood said. “It’s a good articulation of how the maritime forces can be brought to bear.”

Another important aspect of the new NOC is the engagement of partner nations. According to Woods, the NOC formulation process involved consultation with partners and allies.

“We left [the Maritime Strategy] a bit short on how we were going to partner with others. [The NOC] is going to help to articulate that.”

The NOC describes when, where and how naval forces will contribute to enhancing security, preventing conflict and prevailing in war. It is also congruent with the National Defense Strategy and the Quadrennial Defense Review.

“The NOC is aligned with the governing documents that guide our nation’s strategy,” said Woods. “It describes for the next 10 years what we believe the Maritime Strategy will deliver for the nation.”

For more information about the Naval Operations Concept visit [www.navy.mil/maritime/noc](http://www.navy.mil/maritime/noc). **AH**

*Story courtesy of Defense Media Activity – Anacostia, Washington, D.C.*

# YN, PS Advanced Course Gets a Makeover

Training specialists from the Center for Service Support, Newport, R.I., and its learning sites in Norfolk and San Diego tested the improved and modernized Yeoman/Personnel (YN/PS) Specialist Advanced Administration Course, recently graduating seven students in San Diego.

*continued on page 9*



# USS Ronald Reagan Sailor sets bench press world record

Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Equipment) 3rd Class Eric Olmstead, a Sailor aboard the USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) broke the world record in the bench press at the World Power-lifting Federation (WPF) Championships in Las Vegas. A 22-year-old Michigan-native and four-time national power lifting champion, Olmstead lifted 352.74 pounds shattering the previous record for the 165 pound weight class of 341.72 pounds.

“My favorite lift is the bench press because it’s the one I know I’m strongest in,” said Olmstead who weighs 162 pounds.

In the overall competition, which includes the bench press, dead lift and squat, Olmstead lifted a combined weight of 1,383.4 pounds, earning him second place and a silver medal in the international competition. He represented the United States against competitors from Ireland, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

“I trained harder than I ever have a couple of weeks before,” said Olmstead.

Being out to sea, Olmstead had some restrictions on the capacity of his training. With no personal trainer, he relied on the support of his family and shipmates.

“I didn’t have all of the equipment I needed, and I couldn’t do certain lifts,” said Olmstead. “My buddies on the ship helped me out and spotted me. I still did well so I’m pretty proud.” **AH**

*Story and photo courtesy of USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)*





Photo by MC2 Cynthia Griggs



Photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalobos

Above—

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) 41st annual Memorial Service was recently held at the Kauffman EOD Training Complex, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., to honor the men and women who lost their lives on active duty as a result of an EOD mission since the declaration of World War II.

Above from left—

SHSN Demarquis Holman stands watch as the phone operator aboard the U.S. 7th Fleet command ship USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC 19).

Sailors assigned to USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) and Commander, Strike Force Training Pacific compete during the Spring League Naval Air Station North Island championship basketball game in San Diego. *Reagan* Sailors won with a final score of 57 to 54 in their second consecutive championship in the league.

A boxer exits the tunnel on the last night of the Armed Forces Boxing Championships at Naval Base Ventura County, Calif.



Photo by MC3N Benjamin C. Jernigan



Photo by MC1 Aaron Peterson

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The updated course blends computer-based training with traditional classroom instruction to bring the course up-to-date and in step with the ever-changing world of enlisted command and personnel administrators.

“As the environment in which command administrators work changes and evolves, so too, must the training and the curriculum by which we train our yeoman and personnel specialists,” said Chris Leahy, a CSS instructional systems specialist.

Today’s Navy demands that YNs and PSs be more technically proficient and well-versed in all aspects of naval administration and personnel. Therefore, according to Leahy, “graduates of this course of instruction now have a better understanding of the many technical elements of their ratings and will, as a result, be more efficient and effective members of their respective command administration teams.”

Although only a small number of YNs and PSs graduated from the pilot course, the regularly scheduled course set to kick off in October 2010 will allow for approximately 400 students to attend annually in San Diego as well as the CSS Learning Site in Norfolk. Each site is scheduled to conduct eight classes per year.

The one-week, computer-based portion of the training must be completed at the prospective student’s parent command prior to arrival in either Norfolk or San Diego for the two-week residence portion. For last month’s pilot course only, the students completed the computer training at the schoolhouse with CSS staffers on hand to monitor the process.

The computer-based modules “were really helpful to have as a refresher of the ‘big picture’ and to help build a foundation in order to concentrate on the specifics during the instructor portion and to help find answers to our everyday issues,” said Personnel Specialist 2nd

Class Gerardo Arbulu, currently stationed at the Personnel Support Detachment in Sigonella, Italy. “[This training provides] great tools for Sailors that want to be better leaders and supervisors.”

In developing curriculum, it is the responsibility of CSS and its learning sites to support the Navy’s forward-deployed and widely distributed force by delivering more proficient and knowledgeable Sailors in less time. The blended solution as seen in this new course is designed to do just that.

“I strongly think that hybrid learning of computer-based training in the Navy Knowledge Online (portal) being used for pre-requisite requirements followed by the traditional classroom training will pave its way in the fleet,” said Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Sotingco, officer in charge of the CSS San Diego learning site.

The course’s lesson plans are tailored to enlisted leaders in the command and personnel administration workcenters, so this advanced course is restricted to top-performing first- and second-class petty officers. However, waivers for hard-charging third-class petty officers will be considered. To enroll in the course, interested Sailors meeting the course criteria should request to attend via their chains of command and educational services officer. More information about the course can be found in the Catalog of Naval Courses. **AH**

*Story by MCCS Melissa F. Weatherspoon, Center for Service Support, Newport, R.I.*

## SURFPAC Welcomes Midshipmen for Summer Training

Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (SURFPAC) welcomed more than 150 midshipmen to the San Diego waterfront for summer training.

Naval Academy and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) midshipmen will experience a wide range of surface warfare activities, including demonstrations, ship and shore command tours and an underway embark during eight, one-week long training blocks. Members of the SURFPAC staff, along with San Diego waterfront leadership, have planned a number of activities designed to introduce midshipmen to the surface Navy.

“You are the future leaders of our Navy,” Vice Adm. D.C. Curtis, commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, told the midshipmen during a welcome brief. “I hope you make the most of this opportunity to interact with our great Sailors and learn firsthand about the pride, professionalism and opportunities present in today’s high-tech surface Navy.”

Summer training emphasizes fleet education by introducing midshipmen to the missions and requirements of the Navy’s primary warfare communities.

“I am extremely excited for this week of training with the Surface Force,” said Midshipman 2nd Class Courtney Banske, from Calumet City, Ill. “I am looking forward to experiencing firsthand some of the things we learned during the academic year, and to seeing the role of a junior officer aboard a ship.”

During the training midshipmen are able to experience the Navy’s newest and most advanced bridge simulators, including the simulated bridge of a littoral combat ship (LCS) at the LCS shore based technical trainer. The training also involves maneuvers from multiple classes at the navigation, seamanship and shiphandling trainer.

Nearly 1,000 midshipmen are expected to train with the surface force in San Diego this summer. **AH**

*Story by Lt. Alec Zirkenbach, Naval Surface Forces Pacific, San Diego.*

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Photo by Paul Farley

USS *McFaul* (DDG 74) arrives in the harbor at Souda Bay, Crete, for a brief port visit.

Right—ABHAN Brittany Chambliss plays “Taps” during a memorial service for Lt. Steven Zilberman aboard USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) in the North Arabian Sea. Zilberman, assigned to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 121, died when the E-2C *Hawkeye* he was piloting crashed in the North Arabian Sea earlier this year.

An aviation boatswain’s mate (handling) signals an aircraft into launch position on the flight deck of USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75).

A Cambodian child plays jump rope with a Sailor from the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS *Mercy* (T-AH 19) during a 2010 community service event at the Goodwill School, *Pacific Partnership*.



Photo by MC3 Matthew Bookwater



Photo by MC2 Kilino Park



Photo by MC2 Jon Husman

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## Navy’s First Playground for Children with Disabilities Opens at NAS Jacksonville

Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Patriots Grove Playground specifically designed for children with disabilities.

This is the first of its kind to open on a Navy installation. NAS Jax is one of seven bases worldwide to receive the accessible playground equipment.

The equipment was purchased by Commander, Navy Installations Command with the overall project including equipment and installation costing \$187,000. Base in-kind funds were also used to upgrade sidewalks, restrooms, lighting and the parking lot.

“This playground has two separate areas for different aged children. We’ve had a lot of military families stopping by asking when the playground is opening so I know they will definitely be using it quite a bit,” said Jacob McKanna, site superintendent for the construction contractor.

“Our new Patriots Grove Playground serves as an example of NAS Jacksonville’s and the Navy’s commitment to support our families,” said Capt. Jeffrey Maclay, NAS Jax commanding officer. “It’s been a great effort by the entire team. Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. [Jonathan] Greenert recently said our Sailors and families require a family support network that provides relevant services and links the unit, family and the Navy. Today’s ribbon-cutting exemplifies his vision.”

The playground features one continuous surface from the parking lot to the structures.

“The old playground really wasn’t friendly for ... children [with disabilities]. This one will accommodate them. There are specially designed ramps and the features are low enough so

that a parent in a wheelchair can also come out and play with their children,” said Ensign Matthew Ward, NAS Jax public works construction manager.

One of the first to try out the new equipment with her children was Stephanie Melson, who also advocated for the project.

“NAS Jax and the Navy do a wonderful job of taking care of their families and those with special needs. I think this park is a testament to that, and we’re so excited to be a part of it and let our children play here. It’s really beautiful,” said Melson.

“My children aren’t special-needs but there are a lot of them living on base and in the community. There aren’t many parks around that are really accessible so to have this here on base is huge,” continued Melson. “It’s also great for those with very young kids who are just learning to walk. **AH**

*Story by CS2 Sylvia Morris, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Jacksonville, Fla.*

## Free Admission for Service Members and Families to 600 Museums Across Nation

The Blue Star project offers free admission for all active-duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2010 to 600 museums across the country.

The 600 museums across America have come together to create Blue Star Museums which is a partnership among the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and Blue Star Families, an organization that supports military families and increases awareness of the unique challenges of military life.

One of the keynote speakers, San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders, thanked the arts community for their support and acknowledged

challenging times for military members and their families.

This is an effort by the nation’s arts community to reach out to military members across the country, said Sanders. “We have [San Diego] 150,000 active-duty military personnel and 14 museums throughout the county that will be participating in this program, which includes seven in Balboa Park. It goes without saying that this is an extraordinarily challenging time for military families.”

Rear Adm. Garry Bonelli, deputy commander Naval Special Warfare Command, spoke at the event where he thanked Blue Star and the city of San Diego for their support.

“What does this mean to our families? As we look at the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard teams; this means a lot,” said Bonelli. “Most of families at the E-6 and below level really can’t afford to go to museums and pay the full price of admission. Many more of our service members today are married and have children. The ability to come to a museum and get exposure to the arts really helps families that sacrifice so much for our nation and not only them, but their families to be exposed to the arts.”

For a complete listing of participating museums, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov). **AH**

*Story by MC2(SW/AW) John Scorza, Naval Special Warfare, San Diego.*

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# Faster, Higher, Stronger

Story and photos by MC1 (AW) R. Jason Brunson

## What The Games Are All About



"The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."

-Baron Pierre de Coubertin,  
father of the modern Olympic Games







***"My doctor told me the reason I'm alive is because I was an endurance athlete."***

***– SB1 Daniel Hathorn***

**The Olympic motto, the Latin phrase – *Citius, Altius, Fortius* – faster, higher, stronger is a hallmark of the very concept of any athletic endeavor, a benchmark coined more than 110 years ago by the father of the modern Olympic Games.**

The same legacy of relentless courage and inspiring achievement was recently demonstrated by the nearly 200 service members participating in the inaugural Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Among them, 25 Sailors and Coastguardsmen participating in a first of its kind event epitomizing the Olympic motto provided onlookers with an often elusive feeling ... inspiration.

Not surprisingly, that word is often used to describe heroes. That's what heroes do – they inspire and amaze, entrancing others with an indomitable will evidenced through courageous actions.



The Warrior Games, a weeklong, multi-sport event for service member athletes with physical disabilities competed, as individuals and teams, in shooting, swimming, archery, sitting volleyball, cycling, wheelchair basketball and track and field events.

Service member athletes were selected by their respective service through their participation in adaptive sports therapy as part of their individual rehabilitation.

During a video message at the closing ceremony, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen lauded the athletes, both for their performance in the games as well as their ability to grow from the adversity they have faced.

"You've just completed a rigorous test of your physical and mental skills, your strength and endurance," he said. "But now is no time to rest. I'd like you to take what you've done here, what you've learned here and continue to serve as role models for others striving to find the independence they need. You've demonstrated how physical fitness can help heal the mind, body and soul. That's a message worth sharing, and yours is a story worth telling."

Whether injured on the battlefield, on a ship at sea or in a motorcycle accident, men and women from all five branches of military service competed in the games, and from the opening to closing ceremonies, words such as 'amazing' and 'inspiring' echoed through the roar of the crowd during the weeklong event.

With disabilities which would sideline professional athletes, Warrior Games participants were provided a unique challenge for disabled veterans, an opportunity to demonstrate power – ability over disability – through national-level competition.

**my injuries were above the waist, so I really focused on running**

**S**pecial Warfare Boat Operator 1st Class Daniel Hathorn edged 17 other competitors in a pentathlon-style competition including the air rifle, 50-meter freestyle swim, 100-meter sprint, 1,500-meter run and shot put.







***"I make sure that I push myself to stay active and keep overcoming obstacles that get in my way. That's really the only way I can make sure that I get through life being happy and successful."***

*— MA3 Nathan R. DeWalt*



Hathorn captured gold in the 50-meter freestyle and the 1,500-meter track events, as well as scoring a bronze as part of the Navy's 200-meter relay swim.

Hathorn grew up in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York and excelled in hockey, tennis, basketball, baseball, swimming and golf during high school. He spent a year in college before deciding to enlist in the Navy in 1999.

He served three years before his acceptance into the Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewman (SWCC) program.

As an adult, Hathorn had emerged as an accomplished athlete. In January 2009, he was hit by a car while training for a triathlon. He sustained multiple broken bones, including five vertebrae and collapsed both lungs. Natural competitors such as Hathorn tend not to accept defeat lying down, so he quickly assessed his new limitations and decided it was time to get to work.

"After graduating from SWCC school, I knew that I had reached a milestone in my life," said Hathorn. "I knew that I would never quit anything again."

After his accident, lying in bed with a broken face, breathing out of tubes, casts on both arms above the elbow, listening to the doctors talk about amputating his arm, Hathorn said, "All I could think was, 'I've got to get out of this bed.'"

Now, less than two years after he was injured, Hathorn has run one marathon and on the heels of his success at the Warrior Games, has his sights set on the Boston Marathon and the Kona Ironman.

And being recognized as the Warrior Games top participant is something he said marks the end of the long road to recovering from the serious injuries he sustained.

"Rehab was very tough," Hathorn explained. "I have to say, though, that the Warrior Games is the culmination of my recovery. Coming this far is phenomenal. To have these medals and to compete with the Navy and for Naval Special Warfare is awesome."

**if somebody else can do it, I can do it too**

**S**ailors competing in the Warrior Games varied in rate and rank, but all had a common goal – to prove they could excel, despite incurring what many might believe would be the end of any sense of a normal life.

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Nathan R. DeWalt was raised in a military family in York, Pa., and is now confined to a wheelchair, the result of being struck by an automobile while riding his motorcycle.

DeWalt made the decision to continue his family's military tradition after graduating from West York Area High School in June 2006, enlisting in the Navy.

Following basic training, DeWalt attended Law Enforcement/Master-at-Arms School where he excelled in marksmanship and earned an expert rating in both pistol and rifle.

While assigned to Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle, N.J., DeWalt worked with harbor security, base patrol and anti-terrorism force protection. DeWalt also earned a position on NWS Earle's Rapid Response Team.

Prior to his accident, DeWalt was an avid athlete, working out five to six times a week with aspirations of competing in a half marathon.

DeWalt was struck by a vehicle while on his motorcycle July 11, 2008. His spinal cord was severed at the T3 vertebra. While in physical therapy, DeWalt met a fellow service member who had participated in the veteran's games







***“Most of us, are doing something at least one or two doctors have said we would not be able to do.”***  
– CSSN Judith Mae Boyce

and inspired DeWalt’s return to the gym and participation in the Warrior Games. Safe Harbor, the Navy’s leading organization for non-medical care of wounded, ill and injured Sailors and Coast Guardsmen, played a major role assembling the team, starting with the first step. “We were basically the recruiting agency for the athletes of the Navy and the Coast Guard,” said Lt. Courtney Pollman, Navy Safe Harbor’s

stuff they didn’t know they needed, to getting them from point A to point B in time.”

Despite short-term memory loss and an impending intra-cranial operation, Culinary Specialist Seaman Judith Mae ‘Judi’ Boyce also participated in the Warrior Games, competing in the Shotput, Archery and Volleyball. As a child, Boyce spent seven years in the New Jersey foster care and adoption

**I will always be part of the first to play in the games**

special projects analyst. “We brought a support staff of 15 people to support our athletes by providing around the clock availability to a doctor, a physical therapist, a coach; anything from running out and getting them last minute

system. As a young adult, she started looking for stability and found it in the U.S. Navy, completing boot camp and serving aboard USS *Gunston Hall* (LSD 44). Here she continued developing skills in cooking - her greatest passion.



But in November 2008, Boyce suddenly began experiencing severe headaches and blurred vision — she had suffered a stroke. She was referred to National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., and was officially diagnosed with a rare, progressive cerebral-vascular disorder called Moyamoya disease, and in March 2009, Boyce underwent the first of a series of brain surgeries.

An athlete growing up, Boyce said it was having a positive attitude and participating in sports that helped her find her inner strength to overcome personal adversity. Never being one to avoid obstacles, Boyce, following her diagnosis, began to search, this time for an outlet for personal growth and to reaffirm that she controls her destiny - not the disease. Training for Warrior Games provided her with that outlet. “Life has been filled with challenges, being sick is just another one to overcome,” said Boyce. Recently retired Master Chief Aviation Ordnanceman James “Will” Wilson, the U.S.



Navy team captain, said there were numerous stories of inspiration, stories of Sailors accomplishing more than they or others might have thought possible. “We came out here a little bit ill-prepared as far as training, a little unprepared as far as equipment,” he said. “But we brought the most heart of any group here.” To Wilson, the Warrior Games represent much more than just a competitive event. The competition shows those dealing with a new injury or disability life does go on - and the entire nation is behind them. Wilson said as individuals, these warriors came to the games with backgrounds and personal stories as varied as their motivations for participating, but walked away with a common experience of which they could be proud. **AH**

*Brunson is assigned to Defense Media Activity – Anacostia, Washington, D.C.*





ATCS (AW) Jason Wood is one of 24 chiefs, senior chiefs and six gunnery sergeants serving as senior enlisted leaders (SELs) at the U.S. Naval Academy. Similar to a Recruit Division Commander at RTC Great Lakes, Ill., these SELs are often the future ensign or 2nd lieutenant's first interaction with the Navy and Marine Corps' senior enlisted personnel.

## Imagine this scenario –

You worked hard as a student growing up, always earned good grades, participated in sports, were active in your community and took all the right steps to get accepted into the college of your dreams. In college you did more of the same; you worked hard, made all the right moves and eventually landed a sweet job with a fancy title ...

Then, at the ripe old age of 22 you arrive on your first day at work with your well-deserved, hard-earned degree in hand. As you look at the faces of your new employees, a frightening reality sets in.

**“I have very little experience, and most of these guys have at least a decade on the job. They don't seem very interested in working for me.”**

***Now what?***

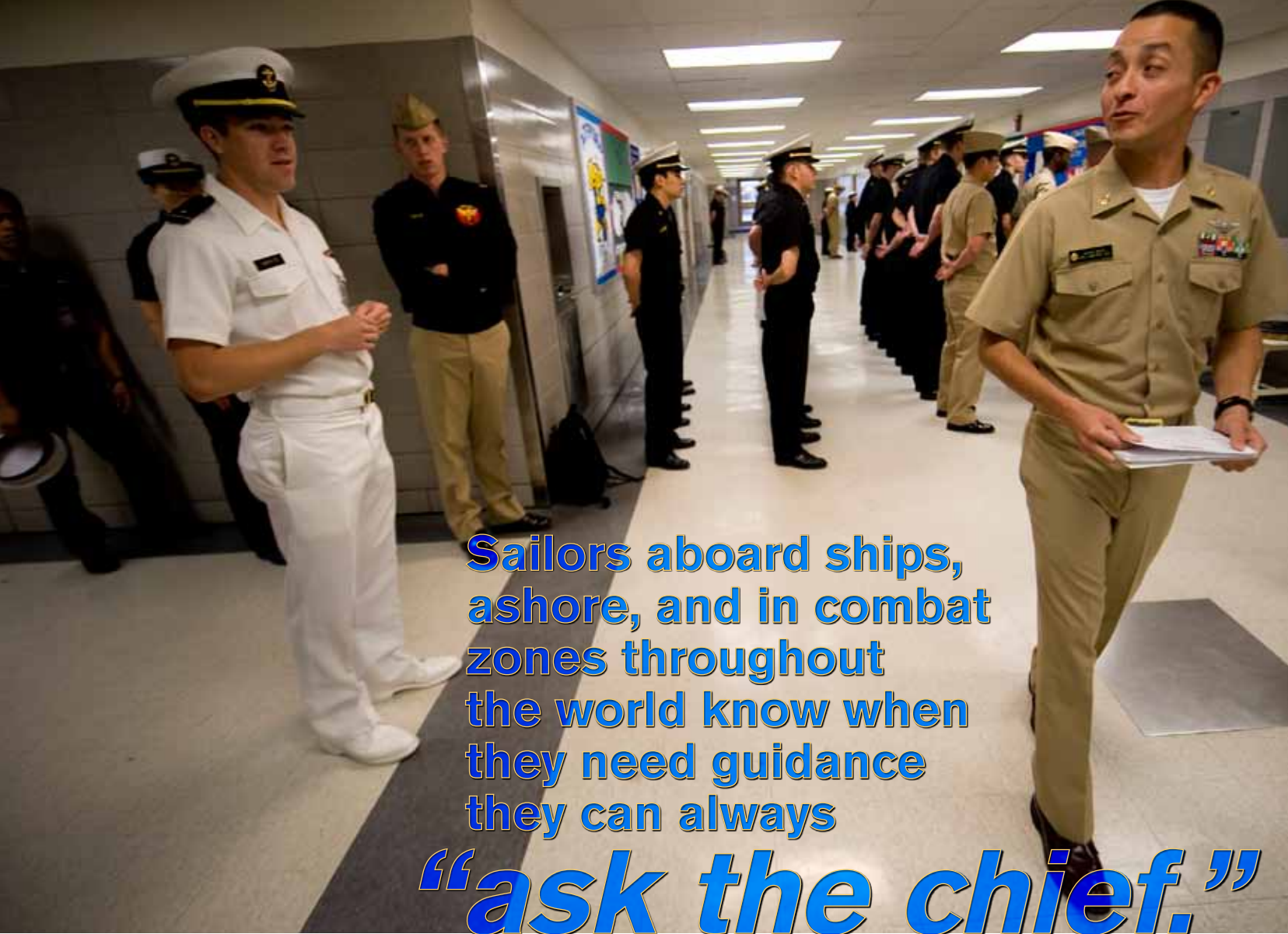
# Shaping Future Leaders

Story and photos by MC1(AW) R. Jason Brunson

JASON WOOD  
2B11 COMPANY SEL







ATCS (AW) Jason Wood says he tries to guide his midshipmen toward finding the right answer rather than giving specific direction. "I don't think [specific answers] helps midshipmen in forming their own leadership style," Wood said.

**When a Sailor puts on chief's anchors for the first time, they generally do so with many miles of walking the deck plates behind them. That is why chief petty officers are often referred to as the backbone of leadership in the Navy. This holds true not only for enlisted Sailors, but for junior officers as well.**

When a recent academy graduate stands his or her first watch in the fleet, the new officer does so, standing in the shoes of a leader. This is why strong relationships with senior enlisted shipmates are extremely important to their success on the job, for the command and the Navy as a whole.

Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), learn to appreciate that relationship early on through the tutelage of senior enlisted leaders (SELs). These SELs are typically the future ensign's or second lieutenant's first interaction with senior enlisted personnel.

At the USNA, the term brigade refers to all of the midshipmen. Within the brigade there are two regiments, within those regiments there are six battalions, containing five companies (totaling 30 companies). Every company has approximately 150 midshipmen, one company officer and one SEL (company chief).

Senior Chief Aviation Electronics Technician (AW) Jason Wood checked aboard the USNA in May 2009 and currently serves as the chief of the 28th company.

Wood said his experiences coming up through the ranks are what prepared him for the job.

"I'll never take for granted the fact that I am a chief, and in being that, have gone through so many experiences, dealt with so many issues," Wood said. "When you try to convert a civilian into a military professional, I think they apply."

Wood said the qualifications or experiences any chief or senior enlisted person has are invaluable and can be related to issues the midshipmen might be facing as they transition into the fleet. By sharing these experiences, Wood helps prepare midshipmen to be better decision makers and leaders.

"It's real easy for anyone to say do it because the book said to; but it's hard to put into perspective for them, why they're doing it," said Wood.

Midshipmen 4th Class Maxwell Johnson said as plebes (first year students), he and Johnson and his peers are constantly learning from the SELs around them things like military bearing and people skills. He said Wood is not hard on the midshipmen in the traditional sense of laying into them, but has a way of "quietly demanding" perfection.

"Seldom do you hear him raise his voice, but whenever you go past his office you want to look your best," Johnson said. "And that's obviously just him having a fantastic leadership style."

According to Johnson, the direction they get from the SELs is not just about uniform inspections and room inspections, but also everyday life. He said the SEL provide a nurturing and constructive criticism.

Johnson learned one his most valuable lessons from Wood on his second day of plebe summer. At that stage, midshipmen often don't yet understand how things work and tend to feel overwhelmed.

"It's bad enough starting out not knowing anything, but also your brain just sort of turns off and you go into robot mode," Johnson said. "I was running and had just seen several first class midshipmen whose names I was supposed to have memorized [and called out], but couldn't. With all of those names going through my mind, I ran past Senior Chief Wood and completely blanked out his name. As I stopped he said 'Mr. Johnson, I understand that you are going through a hard time right now, but so is everyone else. When you are out in the fleet you will have people [working] underneath you and above you. If you don't have the determination or common decency and respect to learn their names, they are never going to work for you.' Needless to say, I never forgot his name again, but that was all he had to say to teach me a very valuable leadership trait."

Wood views the role of an SEL as that of a facilitator, standing behind the midshipmen. The midshipmen have their own chain of command. The SEL tries to guide them toward finding the right answer and running their chain of command as it would function in the fleet, rather than giving specific direction.

"I don't think that helps midshipmen in forming their own leadership style," Wood said.

Wood said helping develop their leadership style is a priority, because there is no on/off switch. One doesn't become a better decision-maker by simply graduating from the USNA.



Wood addresses the issues of the day for his 28th company midshipmen at their morning formation.

Below—

Wood points out a uniform discrepancy for one of his companies' midshipmen.

Wood is one of 30 SELs serving at the U.S. Naval Academy. These SELs are often the future ensign/2nd lieutenant's first interaction with the Navy and Marine Corps' senior enlisted personnel.







*“... it can't get any better than this.”*

YNCS (AW/SW) Lesa A. Geddes provides guidance to her 23rd company midshipmen after they conducted morning colors.

Geddes watches as Midshipmen 2nd Class Donald Hampton leads morning colors. She says much of her job is done in this manner. SELs work behind the scenes teaching the fleet perspective to our future leaders.



The SEL program began in 1994. Prior to this there was no day-to-day contact between midshipmen and enlisted personnel, with the exception of the classes that are taught by enlisted personnel, such as navigation, and some weapons and engineering classes, and the interaction with the yard patrol crews. There were six senior enlisted, either a master chief petty officer or a master gunnery sergeant per battalion and in 1994 it grew to one SEL per company, six are Marine Corps billets.

According to Senior Chief Hull Technician (SW) Carl S. Hall, brigade SEL, the academy places a lot of value and trust on what the SEL community brings to the table. It is one of a very few places in the military where SELs train new service members without a clearly defined curriculum.

Leadership at the time the program began was extremely confident about the impact the SELs would have. A study by Naval Post Graduate School students at that time suggested that a written set of duties and responsibilities for SELs would actually hamper the program.

Senior Chief Yeoman (AW/SW) Lesa A. Geddes said she has been very fortunate throughout her 21-year career to have worked for some very good chiefs and strong leaders that prepared her for this job.

“That’s what’s helped me achieve all I’ve achieved throughout my career,” Geddes said.

– YNCS (AW/SW) Lesa A. Geddes

And now, she is dedicated to passing it on. Previously, she served as a company commander at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill., for her last shore duty tour and is currently the 23rd company chief.

Geddes said a big part of her job is working with the first and second class midshipmen, teaching the relationship between the division officer and division chief, peer leadership and fleet orientation.

This formation is particularly helpful as midshipmen get several opportunities to go underway during summer training.

“I remember being in reactor department and one my second classes bringing in some midshipmen, my first thought was what the heck are they doing here, we have a job to do here,” Geddes said. “I think that’s a failure on our part out there in the fleet.”

Though the academy has a military structure, it is a school. She said there are a lot of basics that without things like the summer training in the fleet and the SEL program these future leaders wouldn’t experience.

“Now they do get our perspective, and it makes things easier knowing that the chief isn’t just another Sailor. Like the leading petty officer is to the chief, the chief is the division officer’s right hand,” Geddes said.

She said she loves her job, not because of the work she’s doing now, but because she realizes the reward to follow.

“After I pushed boots, seeing what used to be one my recruits as a second class and dual warfare qualified [petty officer]. That was my reward,” Geddes said. “Having that impact on the enlisted side and now being able to come here and train future officers, it can’t get any better than this. Who knows? One of these midshipmen could be my next department head or my next division officer.” **AH**

*Brunson is assigned to Defense Media Activity – Anacostia, Washington, D.C.*



# Operation *Bearing Duel*: Putting Seabees to the Test

By MC3 Lex T. Wenberg

“**Bunkers, bunkers, bunkers, gas, gas, gas!**” Seabees scrambled for their mission-oriented protective posture (MOPP) gear as gas grenades went off throughout their forward operating base.

Most Seabees took their designated positions in bunkers while the security team (React Force) set up patrols throughout the camp on lookout for aggressors.

In the aftermath of the attack, Seabees heading back to their posts discovered what appeared to be injured or dead comrades with bloody wounds and splintered fragments of wood sticking out of their arms and legs.

The intensity and urgency of the Seabees reaction did not betray the fact that these weren't real life-threatening situations; they were all just part of the annual field training exercise (FTX) Operation *Bearing Duel*.





Photo by MC2 Joseph M. Bullavac



Photo by MC2 Ace Rheanume



Photo by MC2 Joseph M. Bullavac

A Seabee assigned to NMCB 21 surveys and protects the secondary combat operations center as an M-7A3 riot CS gas grenade is detonated at FOB Thresher during a simulated gas attack.

Above and opposite—

A Seabee assigned to NMCB 5 dons a gas mask while moving toward a bunker during a simulated chemical, biological, BR attack during a scenario at FOB Mega Mouth.

UT2(SCWS) Warren Henseler teaches NMCB 5 Bravo Company Seabees REACT training during Operation *Bearing Duel 2010* at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif.

Seabees assigned to NMCB 21 use a Humvee to protect the lines around FOB Thresher during a simulated gas attack.

During the recent three-week exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Seabees lived in tents, built basic tactical structures and fought in simulated battles.

The 31st Seabee Readiness Group (31st SRG) developed this iteration of the exercise to evaluate and instruct Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 and Reservist Battalion 21 for an upcoming deployment. These realistic scenarios tested Seabees on the full range of their various skill sets.

Seabees support U.S. global operations by building bases, repairing/constructing runways and roads and building bunkers/barracks while providing their own security.

“We generally rely on Marines, but there will be times when there are no Marines available,” said Lt. Javier Lopez-Martinez of the 31st SRG. “In those situations, Seabees have to be ready to do security operations themselves. This training is geared to remind Seabees of that fact in a very real way.”

As a critical part of the troop increase required for operations in Afghanistan, Seabees need to be prepared to handle their own security, convoy escorts and creation and maintenance of entry control points in forward operating bases.

The scenarios at the exercise involved bunker drills, gas and MOPP gear drills, convoy escorting, perimeter scouting, establishing and building.

“We train in classrooms using PowerPoint presentations, and we do some smaller, more specific field training exercises,” said Construction Electrician 1st Class (SCW) Leonardo Calderon, a Seabee instructor and FTX evaluator with the 31st SRG. “This is where they put it all together.”

The training exercise is geared to be as realistic as possible while still providing room for constant feedback.

“We want Seabees to have a constant dialogue with us so that we know what we are doing right and what we can improve,” said Lopez-Martinez.

One of those improvements was the addition of a role-playing scenario involving paid civilian actors to be Afghan civilians.

Both NMCBs were ordered to set up a lookout post at a certain location. The Seabees of each NMCB were not told there was a simulated village adjacent to the designated area. As the builder convoy approached, they slowed then stopped, not knowing what to expect. The town could be full of people hostile to U.S. forces; there was no way to tell. To avoid potential violence, the Seabees needed to proceed with caution.

Advancing slowly, the Seabees put their training to use by establishing a perimeter around the intended lookout post and an entry control point into the safe zone just outside the village.

The village was constructed to simulate the operations environment in Afghanistan. Open windows, hanging laundry, broken-down cars and a bazaar were all part of the scene, including a mosque with a large blue dome that towered above the other buildings.

The villagers looked on with curiosity as music played loudly from the mosque.

The Seabees scrambled to get themselves ready for anything.

“We actually have no direct plan of action for them,” said Lopez-Martinez. “They’re going to do what they’re going to do. There’s no real ‘correct’ way to do this. We just evaluate them based on whatever decision they make.”

Darkness quickly overtook the village as the sun set over the mountains in Fort Hunter-Liggett. The Seabees had the perimeter secured and began to put up their lookout structure. Just then, a group of villagers approached the entry control point. The Seabees put floodlights from their trucks onto the group as they approached.

The villagers shielded their eyes, yet they walked casually toward the entry control point.

“This part of the exercise is to ensure that if and when Seabees come into contact with civilians they use everything they know to ensure their safety and the



Photo by MC2 Ace Rheanume





Seabees assigned to NMCB 5 talk with government contractors working with the 31st Seabee Readiness Group acting as locals at a new construction site. This is just one of the many possible scenarios NMCB 5 could face on their deployment.

Top—  
BUCN Marco Montoyalonado assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5 participates in a class on proper application of face camouflage techniques.

success of the mission,” said Calderon. “Part of that is peaceful interaction with the locals.”

The Seabees called out their interpreter and he got to work communicating with a man who turned out to be the village elder.

“We’re here to get the Seabees accustomed to interacting with Afghani people,” said a contractor who preferred not to be named. “We hire the role players and design cultural courses for the Seabees to attend. The role players will actually be teaching and giving feedback on the cultural do’s and don’ts after the scenario.

“We work on scenario development, simulated injuries and education,” the contractor said. “Our ultimate goal is to allow each Seabee to forget that this is an exercise, and then help them understand their choices and perhaps [give them] some better ones once it’s over.”

The village scenario was just one of many potentially dangerous situations in which Seabees could find themselves, the contractor explained.

To properly secure themselves against aggression, Seabees need to have an understanding of tactical operations, especially defensive tactics, according to Marine Capt. Anthony Friel, a tactics trainer with the 31st SRG.

“Seabees aren’t taught offensive tactics because their job is to build,” said Friel. “But they do need to know basic tactics, where to set up gunning positions, how to do patrols, perimeter sweeps; basically anything that can help keep them safe.”

Throughout history, Marines and Seabees have worked together and continue to work together in modern times; Seabees build bunkers in forward operating bases, and Marines protect Seabees, said Friel. Since Seabees need to be capable of many different jobs themselves, they need specialists in tactical operations.



Seabees assigned to NMCB 21 perform life-saving techniques and give first aid to YN2 Karol Miranda, a “battlefield casualty,” during a mass casualty drill at FOB Thresher as part of Exercise *Bearing Duel* 2010. Seabees receive a variety of training during the field training exercise to help prepare them for their deployment.

Instructors stood by to help reinforce the knowledge the Seabees gained in classes by coaching Seabees on how to carry and speak to the injured.

“Basically there’s a standardized priority list for any combat situation which involves different ways to handle things when they go wrong,” said HMC(AW/SW) Chris Phillips, an evaluator and instructor with the 31st. “If you’re injured, and the injury is life threatening, it’s best to treat yourself as quickly as possible. After that, I always say the best defense is a good offense. You have to shoot back and neutralize the threat.”

Those are among the basic techniques for Seabees to look for when helping themselves or other wounded service members.

After weeks of camping, building and fighting, Seabees closed up camp at Fort Hunter-Liggett. With the training exercise complete, all that was left was to pack up and head back to homeport.

“Our guys did an excellent job out there and made the Seabees proud,” said NMCB 5 Command Master Chief (SCW) Mark Kraninger. “Of course there are always a couple of areas to work on, but that’s why we do an FTX.”

Training can only prepare a team so much, said Kraninger. “You can never cover every possible thing that can happen, but the 31st SRG did a really good job creating as many situations as possible in order to keep our guys adaptable.”

“We improve both our courses and FTX every year from constant feedback from the Seabees we train, and even from our own guys,” said Lopez-Martinez. “In this way we’re constantly creating a new breed of Sailor.”

The work will be hard on deployment, Lopez-Martinez said. “They’ll be earning their pay. These Sailors give me so much hope. They enlisted in a time of war to do one of the harder jobs in the Navy.

“That kind of spirit is what it’s all about: We Build; We Fight.” **AH**

*Wenberg is assigned to Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, San Diego.*



A Sailor assigned to USS *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6) is greeted by family members during a homecoming celebration after a seven-month deployment to the western Pacific Ocean.

**T**he Navy's goal is for spouses to be resilient, well-informed and adaptable to the Navy environment. To achieve this goal, the Navy provides an array of programs, education services and resources to prepare spouses and family members to meet the unique challenges of military life.

Spouses new to the Navy, far from home or starting a new chapter in their life may be unsure about what support is available or how to take advantage of it.

"Just call your nearest Fleet and Family Support Center," Kathy Turner, a program analyst at Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC), said. "Even if you're too far from a base to come in, just call. The staff will be happy to answer your questions. In fact, when you're sure that there's no help available, that's a good time to call us. We'll get you headed in the right direction."

CNIC helps spouses reach this goal with its Child and Youth Program, Ombudsman Program and Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSCs).

FFSCs can also assist military spouses in obtaining employment and maintaining a career, as well as offering courses in personal financial management, with topics ranging from car and home buying to the financial impact of deployments.

FFSCs can also provide guidance on making permanent change of station moves, helping a family learn about their new duty station, the cost of living, availability of housing, even the cultural changes they will encounter.

FFSCs also offer clinical counseling and classes on a variety of topics, including anger management, stress management and couples communication.

"A spouse may have effectively dealt with anger, sadness or stress when they lived in a familiar town with family and friends they have known their whole life," Turner said. "But, leaving this personal support system may be stressful and require adjustment. Fleet and Family Support Centers offer life skills classes and services that show how to adjust and even thrive in these situations."

Short-term clinical counseling can help Sailors and families obtain the tools necessary to cope with the challenges of daily living. The courses and the counseling are free. People are welcome at in any time, without an appointment or a referral from the command.

For children and youth ages four weeks to 18 years, the Navy's Child and Youth Programs provide high quality educational and recreational programs. Teams of caring, knowledgeable professionals provide developmentally appropriate programs tailored to the unique needs, abilities and interests of children.

"Military children face more than the usual challenges of growing up, such as moving every few years and establishing new friendships, while worrying about family members who have been deployed," Chuck Clymer, of the Navy's Child and Youth Programs, said. "We provide children and families with trusted programs and services that assist in coping with these challenges, making the difference between stress and success." **AH**

*Story Courtesy of Commander, Navy Installations Command, Washington, D.C.*

# Support to Navy Spouses



# Sailor Mentor Brings New Capability to Afghan Hospital

Story and photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Christopher DeWitt

**M**aking something out of nothing is a daunting task on its own, turning Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers into biomedical engineers is an entirely different matter and the perfect job for one Sailor.

HM1 Sean Buckley, NATO Training Mission Afghanistan biomedical engineering mentor, and two of the three-person Afghan team he mentors stand in the biomedical engineering shop at Afghan National Army Camp Shaheen regional hospital.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Sean 'Buck' Buckley, a NATO Training Mission Afghanistan biomedical engineering mentor, is solely responsible for mentoring a three-man biomedical engineering shop at the ANA Camp Shaheen regional hospital.

Mentors in Afghanistan typically advise and make suggestions to soldiers who have previously been trained in their field of expertise, but Buckley was faced with training from the ground up.

"His knowledge and skills have made an untrained, aviation electronics mechanic able to repair hospital equipment," said Chief Petty Officer Brandon Ellison, leading chief, who has been working with Buckley for nine months, starting with combat skills training prior to deployment at Ft. Polk, La. "He is a strong, positive influence to those he mentors."

Buckley said he was making progress with his Afghan counterpart.

"I wanted to take the skills he already had and use them to troubleshoot hospital equipment. He understood basic electronic theory and that was helpful because he has a professional knowledge of schematics and circuits, which usually takes the longest to learn."

Biomedical engineers play a life or death role in the daily operations at the ANA hospital.

"Our job is very important because if equipment fails, doctors cannot treat patients, or patients could die," said ANA Lt. Fazil Haq, Biomedical Engineering Department head, who has been in the position for more than three years. "We are kind of like doctors because we take care of the machines like they treat patients."

"Doctors know the equipment works because we tell them it works - that is an incredible amount of trust," Buckley added. During one recent experience, an operating room sterilizer malfunctioned causing a "show-stopping" situation for the much-needed piece of equipment.

"We had the equipment fixed within 24 hours, just as the operating room was down to five sets of sterile instru-

ments for surgeries," Buckley said. "In a situation like this, I wanted to stress the importance and benefits of working with someone as a team."

Of the skills taught, Buckley emphasized the importance of preventative maintenance to his three-man team and often accompanies them on daily rounds to verify the status of equipment.

"We check each area of the hospital, such as the emergency and patient rooms, dentist, physical therapy, optometry, etc., to check on the equipment and find out if anyone is having issues," Buckley said. "Additionally, I sometimes have to train the hospital staff on proper use to prevent injury to patients or damage to equipment."

He has played a pivotal role using other areas of his expertise while mentoring Afghan soldiers.

"Buckley has mentored senior executive staff on contract management and given crucial input on equipment requirements. He has taken a spearheaded approach to a 50-bed addition to the hospital and barracks' construction projects," Ellison said. "This job is easy when you have good people working for you."

Spending such a considerable amount of time with ANA soldiers has had a significant impact on the 38-year-old mentor stationed at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va.

"What's really cool is that it isn't just about being a mentor, we're friends as well," Buckley commented on the relationships formed during his seven-month tour. "Working with these guys is great, they are energetic, want to learn, and are always willing to work. We feed off each other, when they have a bad day - I bring them up, and if I have an off day - they bring me up." **AH**

*DeWitt is assigned to RC North Public Affairs Advisory Team Mentor, Mazar-E-Sharif, Afghanistan.*





Sailors man a .50 caliber machine gun on the fantail aboard USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) during a naval security force exercise. Sailors assigned to security forces and the weapons department aboard *Lincoln* participated in Exercises *Solid Shield* and *Citadel Curtain*.

## Training Reinforces Force Protection Importance

The Navy continues to improve its force protection posture at home and overseas through a series of training events, tabletop exercises, conferences and major exercises.

These efforts will culminate Oct. 12 - the 10-year anniversary of the attack on USS *Cole* (DDG 67) - with the Anti-Terrorism Flag Summit action plan led by Adm. J.C. Harvey Jr., commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

"We are committed to conducting training and exercises throughout the year to identify any gaps or seams in our force protection at home and overseas," said Capt. Sam McCormick, director for fleet antiterrorism at U.S. Fleet Forces Command. "We are working this issue all the way down to bare metal. It's across everything; it's manning, resourcing, technologies, command and control, policies and doctrine - the entire spectrum is being looked at."

One such event, held recently at Naval Station Norfolk, is *Citadel Protect 2010* (CP10). CP10 is a U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Navy Installations Command-led training event designed to assess the Navy's capability to protect ships against various potential threats in Navy ports.

"This exercise was a tactical-level exercise specifically focused at testing our tactics, techniques and procedures at the waterfront scene," said McCormick.

The training presented Sailors with different scenarios, which required them to respond quickly and effectively. The use of realistic simulations and Hollywood-style special effects, including pyrotechnics, added to the authenticity of the training experience.

"The exercise was extremely beneficial," said Capt. Kelly M. Johnson, commander, Naval Station Norfolk. "Any time training is conducted

using realistic scenarios, first responders learn to adapt and overcome in an ever-changing environment."

CP10 successfully determined the Navy's capabilities for identifying both strengths and weaknesses in ashore/afloat integration.

"Ultimately, prevention of future attacks will come down to the individual Sailor and their ability to recognize and respond to a threat," said McCormick. "It is important that we make the training as realistic and authentic as possible."

"Having the opportunity to utilize learned skills and test reaction time not only benefits the Navy, but it also benefits individual Sailors," Johnson said. "They gain the confidence necessary to act in stressful situations."

Since the attack on *Cole*, the Navy is making significant strides in improving its force protection. The attack took place in a non-

Navy port outside the U.S., making it slightly different than the scenarios presented during CP10. However, important lessons were learned from both situations.

Advanced training programs like CP10 help the Navy as it constantly strives to enhance its readiness, and the lessons learned will help shape future planning. AH

Story by MC3 Kristin L. Grover, Navy Public Affairs Element East, Norfolk.

## Far East CPOs Donate Thousands to Relief Society

The Far East Chief Petty Officer Association (CPOA) at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) recently presented a check for approximately \$8,000 to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS).

The money derived from a 117-hour consecutive run put on by the Far East CPOA will support victims of the Millington flood. The CPOA and major contributors gathered at CFAY's Berkey Field to hand over the check a local NMCRS representative.

"This is one of the single largest donations we have ever received," said Amy Lacaria, president of Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Japan. "When I first heard about this fundraiser, I thought \$1,500 would be a good goal, but they went well over what I thought they would earn."

The marathon was conducted on two treadmills and a stationary bike, and each hour as one chief completed his or her race against the clock, another "relieved the watch" for the next hour. The 117 time-frame of the event represented the number of years U.S. Navy chief petty officers have been walking the deckplates and leading Sailors. Proceeds were based on "per mile" pledges, but passers-by were also able to support the runners by donating on the spot. Area commands were encouraged to pledge based on the assumption that runners will average of five miles an hour.

"I feel we did very well, and this money is going to help out a lot of people in Millington," said participant and avid runner Chief Personnel Specialist (AW) Louis Saldana. "We had a great response to this event both from volunteers and people wanting to donate and help out, and we hope to do something like this again next year."



NCCS Johannes Gonzalez runs on a treadmill to raise money for the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society during the Far East Chiefs 117-Hour Run. The event was sponsored by the Yokosuka Far East Chief Petty Officer Association to commemorate 117 years of CPO deckplate leadership.

Saldana said he and other members of the CPOA hope their hard work and dedication will provide much-needed relief for their shipmates on the other side of the world. AH

Story by MC3 Andrew Ryan Smith, Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Det. Japan, Yokosuka, Japan.

## Force Expansion Equals Seabees in Action

In the vicinity of Mazar-e-Sharif, the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 have a challenging task, establishing Forward Operating Base Deh Dadi.

U.S. and international forces continue to increase their footprint in northern Afghanistan, and the Seabee's of NMCB 4 have their work cut out for them, work that is both difficult and rewarding.

"The future vision for work we're doing here is that it will become an enduring Afghan National Army (ANA) military base. We are not just building a temporary camp for the force expansion but a long term military installation for the ANA," said Cmdr. Dean VanderLey, commanding officer, NMCB 4.

The purpose of the construction projects hinge largely on the requirement for more space, made especially urgent with the arrival

of several Army units. The current area is not nearly enough, however, the projects underway will provide an area large enough to accommodate the footprint of incoming units where significant portions of the incoming forces can live in, and fight from.

With all the work comes opportunity and obstacles to overcome.

"It's great that we get to do a little bit of everything and get to see it go from the ground up!" says Utilitiesman 2nd Class (SCW/SW) Daniel Rodriguez. "We have to stay flexible, everything is always changing," said Rodriguez.

"Between the ever changing weather, getting to and from the job site, we have had our share of challenges," said Engineering Aid 1st Class (SCW) Carolina Godoy, recalling some of the initial difficulties. "The best part though, was that I got to design a lot of the project."

According to Vanderley, Seabees faced a number of significant challenges including the sheer size of the project. Weather and associated soil conditions created problems as well; the soil is fine clay which becomes very soft and sticky when wet.

Since the project site is not contiguous with any existing Forward Operating Base, security also presents a challenge. Seabees essentially created what they called our own small "Fort Apache," expanding out from that. Vanderley added that NMCB 4's Seabees have put their



training into practice and operate as an impressive and effective security force.

“We trained for this in our FTX,” said Equipment Operator 2nd Class (SCW) Michael Ivey. The Field Training Exercise is part of the Fleet Readiness Training Plan that assesses the capability of the battalion to deploy. “It’s really neat to see it all unfold,” said Ivey.

The design of the project was generally dictated by the requirements of the incoming units. The battalion coordinated closely with an Air Force Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force to create a master plan that accommodated the needs of the incoming units and that was also constructible with local resources. With so many considerations that influenced the layout and makeup of the project, the variety of jobs is astounding.

“There are so many opportunities to build,” said Builder Constructionman Apprentice Tyler Turner. “It’s more than just construction,” said Turner. **AH**

Story by MC1 Russell Stewart, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4.

## Millington Hosts First Navy 10–Nautical Mile Run

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Mid-South recently hosted a 10–nautical mile run in Millington, Tenn.

The NSA Mid-South community pulled together after more than a month of flood recovery efforts to celebrate what they hope will be the start of an annual Navywide event. The community was hit by a storm May 1 that caused severe flooding, significant structural damage to NSA Mid-South facilities and crippling the base’s infrastructure.

“The flood was just a hiccup in the road,” said Capt. Doug McGowen, NSA Mid-South commanding officer. “We had a lot of planning and logistics already set up. We wanted to get through flood recovery to get back to normalcy.”

“Other branches of the service have races, the Marine Corps Marathon, the Air Force Marathon, the Army Ten Miler,” said Lt. Cmdr. Isabelle Detter, NSA Mid-South Public Works officer, who had the idea for the race. “There isn’t really a specific Navy race, and we began planning this several months ago in an effort to start our own official Navy race.”



Runners participate in the inaugural Navy Ten Nautical Miler road race at Naval Support Activity Mid-South in Millington, Tenn. The road race was the first and only race to use nautical miles to measure the course.

Detter said the race’s measurement the nautical mile, was selected to reaffirm participants, largely Sailors and civilians associated with the U.S. Navy, ties with the sea service, something she said is more than just clever word play.

“A nautical mile is actually about one and a quarter miles,” she said. “While everyone will understand the term ‘nautical,’ most individuals really don’t know the distance, and as Sailors we should.”

Detter added that the date of the race was significant as well, and stressed the importance of ensuring the date is imprinted on Sailor’s minds. Detter selected June 6 because of its importance in Navy history.

“As you know, June 5 is the Battle of Midway, a famous battle for the United States Navy and June 6 was D-day,” said McGowen. “[The Navy] had a significant part to play in those historical days, so we are doing this as a commemoration to those two major events,” he said.

Despite the entire month of May centered on flood recovery, Detter proceeded with plans for the inaugural event, seeing the race as an opportunity to further connect with the community after the flood. Detter said nearly 450 individuals ran the 11.5 mile course.

“I think oddly enough the flood increased people’s desire to run,” Detter said. “It was a spirit of perseverance that seemed to make it something we ‘had’ to do, and after such a devastating event in the community, being able to pull everyone together for an event designed to boost morale and focus on something positive if only for a couple of hours seemed the right thing to do.”

Detter added that not only was the event successful in boosting morale and employ-

ing team-building concepts throughout NSA Mid-South, but proceeds from the race were donated to charity.

“All proceeds go to the Fisher House this year and all years in the future,” said Detter. “We received so much assistance during and after the flood, and it feels good to us as a community to donate what we can to an organization which truly needs it.”

The Fisher House is a home-away-from-home for families of patients receiving care at major military and Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, similar to the service provided by the Ronald McDonald House at civilian hospitals.

Detter added that this is the first race of which she is aware that is measured in nautical miles, a concept she hopes will continue to spread throughout the military and gain the reputation of other military athletic contests.

“This year we reached out to another command a half-a-world away to participate, and even though they’re in an area which isn’t conducive to fun, they all had a good time.”

Nineteen U.S. and Italian service members participated in the race, running in conjunction with personnel at NSA Mid-South but completing their course on Forward Operating Base Farah in Afghanistan.

Chief Hospital Corpsman Ben Hodges coordinated deployed service members’ participation with Detter, and despite the numerous obstacles to overcome, he said the race represented the solidarity of the sea services and the willingness to keep flood victims at the forefront.

“Like people around the world, we were extremely concerned for the Sailors and their

families during the flooding,” said Hodges. “When we found out about the 10 Nautical Miler we jumped at the opportunity to take part in the event.”

As with every event, there are risks to assess and overcome, but Afghanistan posed new threats and risks not common stateside. With temperatures reaching nearly 125 degrees some days and the constant threat of possible adverse contact, Hodges said numerous precautions were taken to ensure the safety of all participants.

“All steps were taken to mediate the risks,” he said. “We made sure security personnel were in key locations to ensure the safety of all participants and our checkpoints had water and medical personnel on hand.”

Proceeds from the Afghanistan leg of the race were donated a local orphanage. Hodges also said that he and other chief petty officers in Farah used the race as an opportunity to motivate and remind junior Sailors of Navy heritage and traditions.

“Running the Ten Nautical Miler vice a standard distance race was great not only to tighten our ties to our sea going brothers and sisters, but also to share our service and pride with our accompanying U.S. and Italian armies,” he said. **AH**

Story by MC2(SW) Ronda Spaulding, Naval Support Activity Mid-South, Millington, Tenn.

## HSV *Swift* Deployment Foster Regional Security, Cooperation

With a scheduled which has included visits to Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Ecuador and Nicaragua, HSV *Swift* and her embarked crew deployed to the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) Area of Operations in support of *Southern Partnership Station (SPS) 2010* with the primary goal of information sharing with navies, coast guards, and civilian services throughout the region.

“We try to engage the countries we visit at all levels to ensure our message of progress through partnership is given to the most people, consistently,” said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Simmons, *SPS 2010* deputy mission commander. “We are here as partners to continue the relationships that we have estab-

lished and to create new relationships that we want to keep into the future.”

Swift spent nearly two weeks in port participating in subject matter expert exchanges with the Panamanian Defense Force. Members of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps held exchanges about various maritime topics including port and physical security, and junior and senior military leadership roles.

“We received a warm welcome in Panama,” said Capt. Kurt Hedberg, *SPS 2010* mission commander. “The exchanges that have taken place during these two weeks will go a long way toward improving our techniques and procedures, increasing interoperability and mutual cooperation in the maritime environment.”

“We learned martial arts from the U.S. Marines and then in turn taught them a few of the techniques we use while patrolling our borders,” said Panama Marine 2nd Cpl. Rolando Bravo.

Bravo said that while this was his first time working with members from *Swift*, he has worked with the U.S. Marine Corps on six different occasions.

“This training will really help my unit out a lot because we learned techniques on how to handle people, something that we may need to use often. I know I can speak on behalf of my unit when I say that we will be waiting for the next exchange we are able to participate in.”

The *SPS* mission is directly aligned with the nation’s Maritime Strategy, a crucial responsi-

bility of protecting U.S. vital interests in an increasingly interconnected and uncertain world.

“It’s always interesting getting to interact with defense forces from other nations, and see how they conduct themselves and work,” said Yeoman 1st Class (EXW/SW) Tiffany Summers, from Vineland, N.J., and a facilitator with the Maritime Civil Affairs Instructor and Security and Training Command Security Forces Detachment aboard *Swift*. “I look forward to seeing what we’ll be able to learn and take back to the command.”

This is the fourth *SPS* deployment in the USSOUTHCOM AOR and the vision is to continue this effort to maintain a persistent presence in the region as a way to further enhance strong relationships.

“*SPS* is seen as an enabler and a great example of the U.S. global Maritime Strategy at work,” said Hedberg. “During this mission, we seek to promote common interests and share information, in various capacities, with nations that we already work closely with. The thought is to create a more secure maritime environment for all involved as we demonstrate our ongoing commitment to the region.”

*Swift* is operated and navigated by 17 civilian contract mariners working for a private company under charter to the U.S. Navy’s Military Sealift Command. **AH**

Story Courtesy of Southern Partnership Station.

ENC Edward Young, from Gadsden, Ala., deployed aboard the High Speed Vessel *Swift* (HSV 2), inspects the inner workings of a diesel engine during a subject matter expert exchange with Panamanian Defense Forces in Balboa-Rodman, Panama.





# John Paul Jones, FDR and The Movie That Almost Was

Story by MC2 Geraldine Hawkins

“I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast, for I intend to go into harm’s way,” said John Paul Jones, who is commemorated by three anniversaries this month – his birth, July 6, 1747, his death July 18, 1792 and his repatriation at the U.S. Naval Academy in July 23, 1905. Is it any wonder that he was the hero of the president who assured his countrymen that “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself”?

Franklin D. Roosevelt held a deep love for the Navy. After serving as assistant secretary of the Navy from 1913 to 1920, Roosevelt fell ill with a devastating attack of polio and for the rest of his life used a wheelchair. During his period of recuperation (lasting several years), Roosevelt wrote a historical novel and a screenplay dealing with the life of John Paul Jones. In the spring of 1923 Roosevelt sent his screenplay to Famous Players – Lasky (later Paramount) Studio, where it was brought to the attention of Jane West of the production department.

“Miss West is very anxious to talk over your proposed story to determine just what you have in mind and will be glad to assist in every way possible in developing it for the screen,” wrote Eugene Zukor, son of movie mogul Adolph Zukor. As a petty officer during World War I, Eugene Zukor had inventoried ammunition and reported directly to the assistant secretary.

Roosevelt’s treatment of Jones’s life is remarkably accurate, with FDR proving himself a great storyteller with a strong sense of how movies unfold. His screenplay was an interweaving of the personal and the historical record, even including a romantic subplot (that is largely speculation).

The action takes place in Scotland, Virginia, North Carolina, Portsmouth, N.H., England, Paris and the Caribbean islands of Tobago and Guadeloupe. John Paul (he added the “Jones” later), taunted about his possible illegitimacy as a boy in Scotland, puts to sea at age 13 to find his brother in

America. He later serves as first mate aboard a slave ship, an experience that disgusts him and deepens his passion for freedom.

In North Carolina, John Paul is befriended by the anti-Tory statesman Wylie Jones. “By this time John Paul has become so thoroughly wedded to the charm of colonial life, and so much affected by the friendship and confidence shown him that the contrast with his former life makes a special appeal to his mind. He remembers only pleasant things of America, only bitterness and ill luck of his Scottish home and his West India voyages. Further, he is greatly influenced by the high ideals of government and democracy as shown by his new friends. He parts with Wylie Jones in an affecting scene, asking permission to add his benefactor’s name to his own. From henceforth he is now John Paul Jones.”

Scene XII takes place in Independence Hall, October 1775: “Jones appears before the Maritime Committee of the Congress and points out plans for starting the new Navy and various methods of employing it in the cause of the Colonies.

Three months later, aboard the flagship *Alfred*, “At the order of the commodore, Jones hoists with his own hands, [America’s] ‘Rattlesnake’ flag with the inscription ‘Don’t Tread on Me.’ Thus the first American flagship is placed in commission.”

By July 4, 1777, Jones commissions *Ranger* by “hoisting the newly created Stars and Stripes, made for him by the young ladies of Portsmouth, N.H.

By February 1778, Jones is off the coast of Brittany, where he “sails through the French fleet of warships and receives the first official salute to the American flag ever given by a foreign government.”

Roosevelt’s admiration for naval heroism is most evident in his description of the best-known incident in the life of John Paul Jones. In the North Sea off the coast of England in September 1779, Jones was captain of USS *BonHomme Richard*, locked in battle with HRMS *Serapis*. “[British] Captain Pearson, having the speed, is most successful in raking *BonHomme Richard* fore and aft, but Jones, by a brilliant maneuver forces the bowsprit of the *BonHomme Richard* into the shrouds of the *Serapis*. Running forward he lashes the two

ships together with his own hands. The wind forces *Serapis* around so that her bow slowly comes even with the American ship’s stern. In this position they are locked fast.

“The heavier guns of *Serapis* tear great holes through the lower deck of *BonHomme Richard*. The latter catches fire through the explosion of her worn out guns. The carnage on the decks of both ships is terrific, but the superior marksmanship of the American Sailors and Marines in the main and mizzen tops sweep the upper decks of *Serapis*.

“Suddenly, amid the smoke and flashes of fire a mass of British prisoners rush on deck from the hold of *BonHomme Richard*, crying out that the ship is sinking. Jones’s voice from the quarterdeck crows them. He tells them that they will all perish unless they rush below to man the pumps.

“At this moment the fire from the American ship having slackened, Pearson jumps on the rail and calls out to know if Jones has surrendered. Jones’s reply is, ‘I have only just begun to fight.’ Pearson, gathering his men, seeks to board the American ship over the rail, but is repulsed by Jones at the head of his crew.

“... Pearson turns to Jones and offers him his sword. With the utmost courtesy Jones returns it to him, and compliments him on the gallant way he has fought his ship. Pearson in great dejection fears that his reputation has been ruined, but Jones assures him that the British Admiralty will recognize him and that his King will reward him with a knighthood. [Pearson was actually knighted.]”

John Paul Jones died in Paris at age 45, hours after dictating his will to Gouverneur Morris, a drefter of the Constitution. He was buried there in the St. Louis Cemetery for Alien Protestants, but July 22, 1905, his body was removed for reburial, with great ceremony, at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

To Roosevelt’s annoyance and Zukor’s embarrassment, the John Paul Jones manuscript was “sidetracked.” Roosevelt was elected Governor of New York in 1928, and in 1932, President of the United States; but his first love remained the U.S. Navy, and perhaps one day his John Paul Jones story will make it to the screen. **AH**

*Hawkins is assigned to Defense Media Activity-Anacostia, Washington, D.C.*

## Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Ricardo Chery

Story by MC2 Brian Coverley

The ability to move troops, supply and equipment has always been key to mission success. For the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Afghanistan, this mission is complicated with rugged terrain and treacherous roads.

In this environment, ISAF personnel provide more than combat presence and support. They also perform missions which can have a positive impact on operations in Afghanistan – establishing a relationship with the Afghanistan population in areas in which they deploy. ISAF personnel accomplish this through Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT), small but efficient units focused on civil engineering, humanitarian aid, education and other essentials.

Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Ricardo Chery, a reservist from the Navy Operations Support Center (NOSC) West Palm Beach, Florida, is serving a 14-month assignment with the Army Reserve’s 372nd Engineer Brigade at forward operating base (FOB) Sharana, a launching-pad and headquarters for PRT Paktika where Chery assists PRT Paktika personnel in accomplishing their mission.

“While here, I assist with requisitions for items to maintain PRT readiness,” he said. “I also assist with other tasks such as receiving cargo that comes into forward operating base Sharana and distributed throughout Paktika province – medical supplies, plant seeds and coordinating with military and civilian transport officials for all cache logistics.”

Operating in an environment far removed from where LS duties traditionally take Sailors, Chery credits preparation and training as essential to his successful deployment.

“I’m grateful that the staff at my NOSC were very engaged as to what I needed to prepare for a deployment,” he said. “The tasks and training I received helped in the sense that the position I’m currently in is similar to those given to me and a previous one aboard USS *Abraham Lincoln* as a storekeeper. Upon my



arrival to my unit here, there was basically no changeover needed – I was able to step into my role without difficulty.”

PRT Paktika is actively engaged in counterinsurgency operations (COIN), an initiative derived from coalition forces’ experience in Iraq centered around positive interaction with Afghanistan populations, something Chery said is imperative to success in the region.

“COIN has to be instilled in all training for the mission here in Afghanistan,” he said. “The military’s new strategy for peace through COIN seems to have changed many things here, from what I’ve seen. I believe this strategy is having a great effect. Not only are we helping to eliminate the bad guys, but we are also constantly looking for ways in which we can build up and support the average Afghani, just people trying to live their lives in safety and protect their families.”

Chery also said Sailors interested in IA assignments should volunteer, something he said can provide a more complete understanding of coalition forces’ mission in the area.

“I believe this experience [develops] character and a great sense of appreciation of the great freedoms the United States of America offers us all,” he said. **AH**

*Coverley is assigned to Defense Media Activity-Anacostia, Washington, D.C.*



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